

Abstract

As the public and private sectors of the United States move toward renewable energy production and away from fossil fuels, programs and organizations that work to aid displaced fossil fuel workers are growing by the day. However, it is unclear how effective these programs are, as displaced workers are claiming they were laid off without tools or resources in their possession to transition to a new career. This research analyzes the gaps in workforce aid programs and highlights some of the struggles faced by displaced fossil fuel workers to identify solutions that will facilitate a just transition. The case study for this experiment examines assistance resources for displaced workers from the explosion of the Philadelphia Energy Solutions Refinery in Pennsylvania. Through interviews with former employees of the refinery and a representative from Philadelphia's workforce assistance program, strengths and weaknesses were measured through thematic coding to identify areas that could be improved. This research furthers knowledge in the field by identifying problems inhibiting a 'just transition' for fossil fuel workers and by providing recommendations to these challenges. The results of this research confirmed there is a lack of awareness of resources amongst displaced fossil fuel workers.

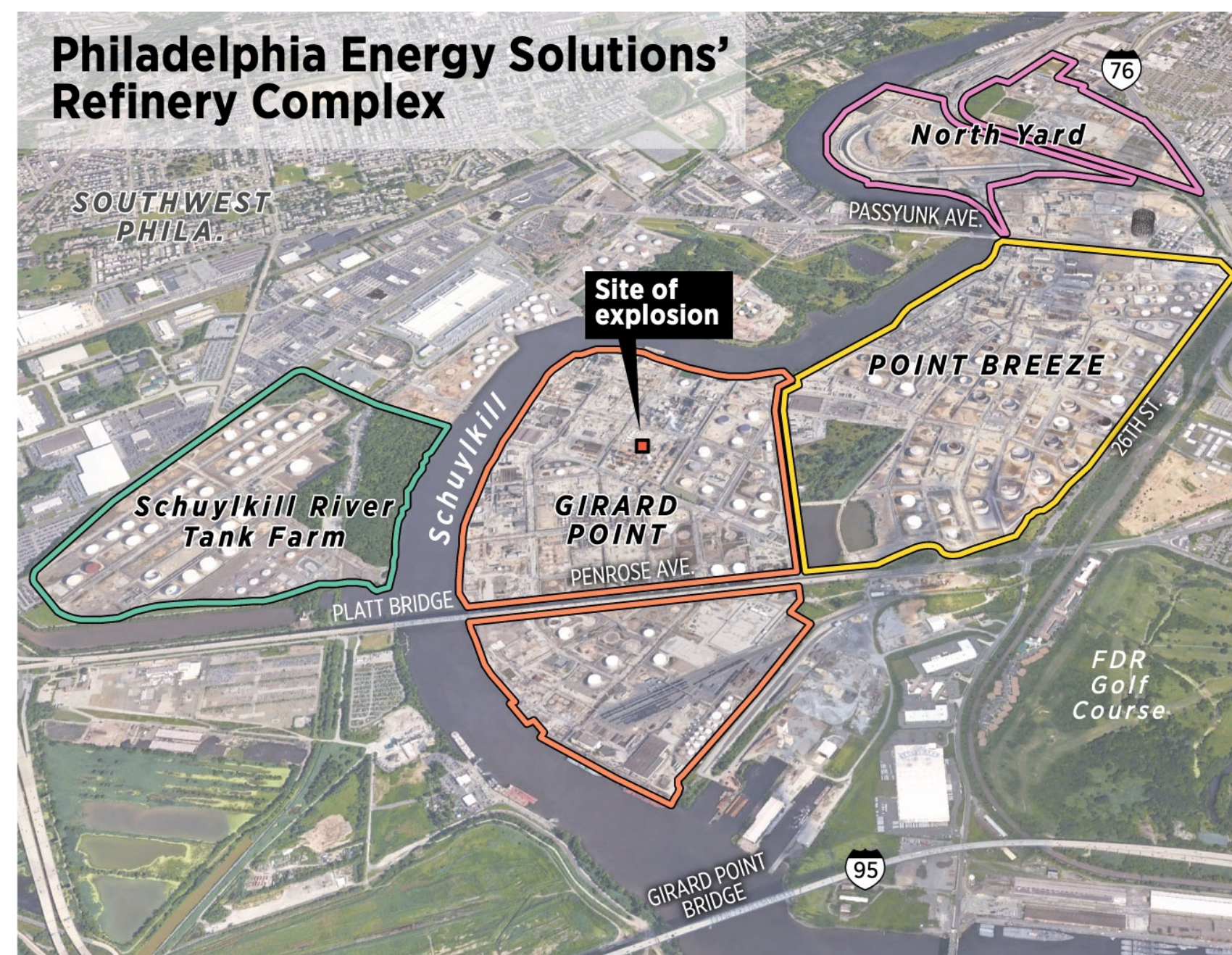


Figure 1: Philadelphia Energy Solutions; City of Philadelphia; imagery from Google Earth John Duckneskie / Staff Artist

Methods



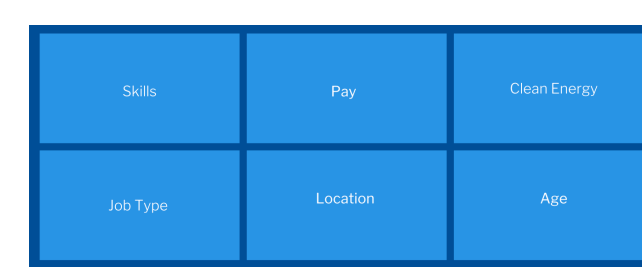
Interviews



Displaced Fossil Fuel Workers / Representatives



Thematic Coding



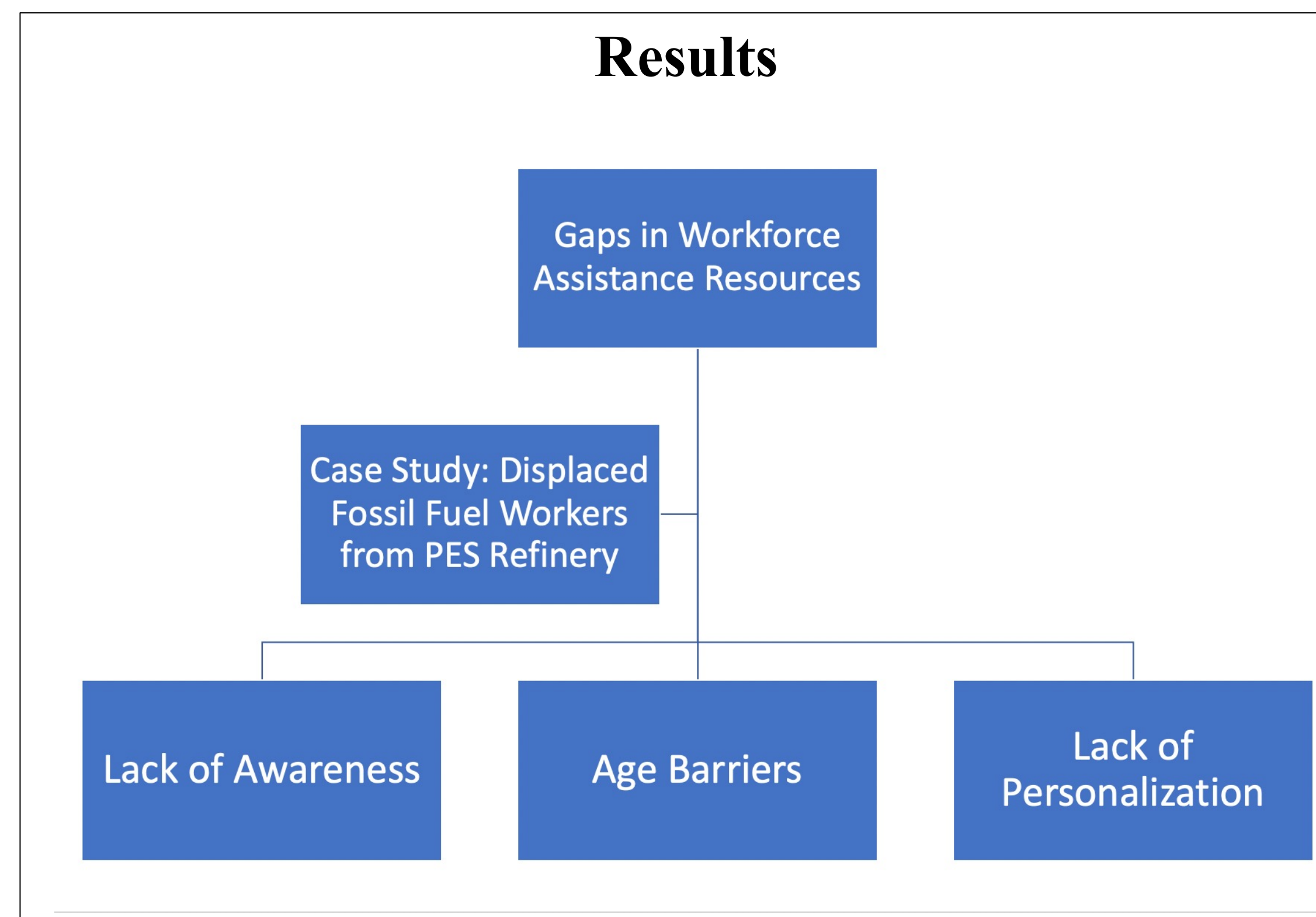
Strengthening Workforce Assistance Resources for Displaced Fossil Fuel Workers:

A PES Refinery Case Study

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Reviewed by Dr. Jane Dmochowski

Results



Discussion

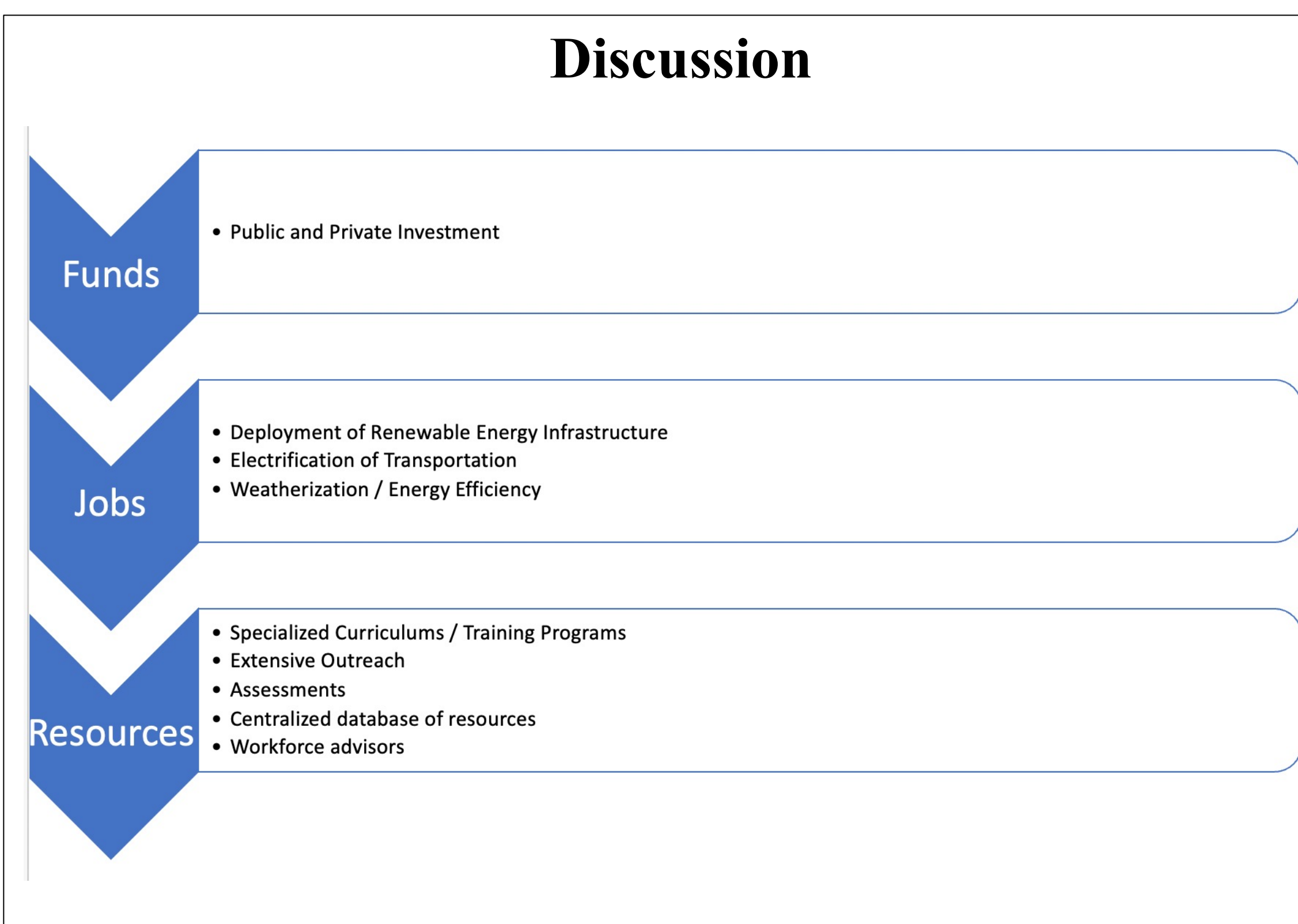


Figure 3: "Commonwealth Workforce Development System (CWDS)." Department of Labor & Industry,

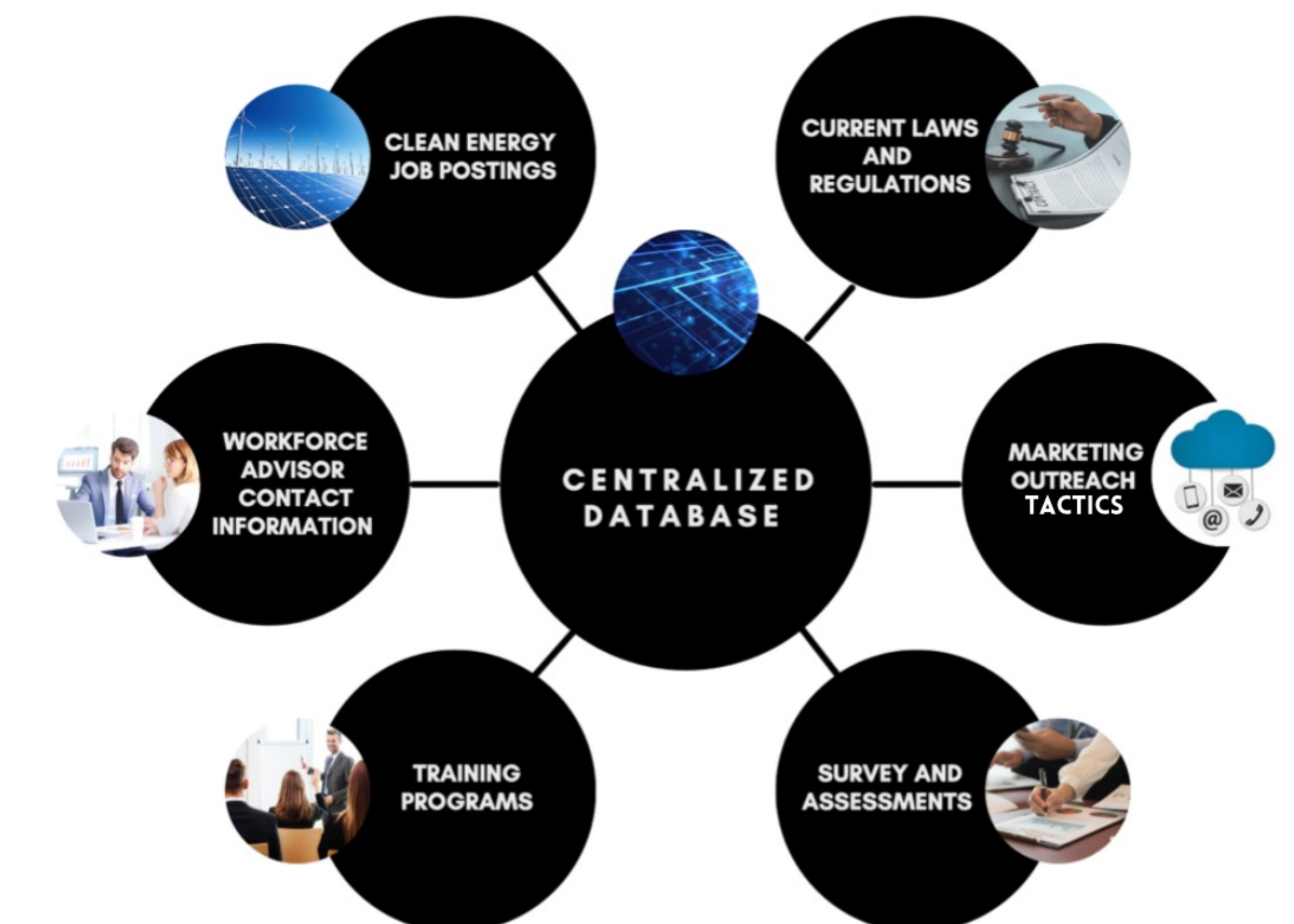


Figure 2: The Centralization of Workforce Assistance Resources

Conclusion

To ensure a just transition to clean energy, policy makers must consider the voices of those who are being displaced. Workforce assistance programs must make their resources more accessible and well-known through centralized databases and stronger outreach techniques.